

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic analyzer comprising means for moving down a pipeting probe to immerse into liquid in a first container, means for transferring liquid from said first container to a second container by said pipeting probe, and means for measuring the content of said second container, which further comprises means for detecting the height of said first container: wherein said automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to a position which is calculated and determined according to the result of detection by said detecting means, temporarily stops said probe there, and further moves down said probe to immerse said probe into the liquid in said first container.

15 2. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1, wherein said means for detecting the height of said first container judges the type of said container and determines the height of said container according to the container type from a stored relationship between container types and heights.

20 3. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 or claim 2, which further comprises means for detecting the surface of liquid in said first container, wherein said automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to said preset position, temporarily stops said probe there, starts said liquid surface detecting means, and immerses said probe into the liquid while detecting the liquid surface.

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4. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to claim 3, wherein said pipeting probe moves down to said preset position more quickly than said pipeting probe moves down after temporarily stopping.

5. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to
claim 4, wherein said preset position is up to 2 mm high
above the upper end of said first container.

6. An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 to
claim 5, wherein said pipeting probe temporarily stops
for a time period of 100 ms to 1000 ms.